

Jaelynn is a tenth-grader at Carnegie Vanguard High School. She earned the award for her diligent work and dedication to spread her "No Texts, No Wrecks" campaign. Jaelynn recruited more than 15 volunteers to accompany her to driving schools in her community to stress the importance of not texting and driving. She also collected more than 400 pledges from young drivers who promised to not text and drive. Jaelynn has been a member of the San Jacinto Council for 13 years and previously earned the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards. What an accomplished young woman.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jaelynn Walls for receiving the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award.

IN HONOR OF BRYAN KECK,  
SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING  
BEE PARTICIPANT FROM DU-  
BUQUE, IOWA

### HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent from my district, Bryan Keck from Dubuque, Iowa, on his participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Bryan, a seventh grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School in Dubuque, Iowa, won the Telegraph Herald Media Regional Spelling Bee last March to earn a spot in the national bee. Last week, he and his family traveled to National Harbor, Maryland where 285 spellers from across the United States competed during Bee Week 2015 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

In the preliminary round, Bryan correctly spelled "omnivorous"—an adjective meaning "of an animal or person feeding on food of both plant and animal origin." He also correctly spelled "rhipiphorid"—a noun that classifies certain types of beetles.

In his free time, Bryan enjoys, giving back to his community through the Boy Scouts, going bowling, playing Minecraft, and reading crime novels. He hopes to one day become a federal prosecutor.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations, c-o-n-g-r-a-t-u-l-a-t-i-o-n-s, congratulations to Bryan on his participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW MURRAY

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Murray for winning Top Male Individual at the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

Matthew, a junior at Dawson High School in Pearland, was among almost 250 competitors from around Texas. Each competitor was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike and 3 mile run. Matthew's win speaks to his dedication to the sport and im-

mense athletic ability. This was his second year in a row to win Top Male Individual. He has made his family, coaches and community proud. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Matthew for his back-to-back wins of Top Male Individual at this year's Triathlon Championships.

HONORING WHEELING PUBLIC  
WORKS DIRECTOR ANTHONY  
STAVROS

### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of Wheeling Public Works Director Anthony Stavros. Mr. Stavros is retiring next month and leaves behind a reputation of strong dedication and commitment to the people of Wheeling, Illinois.

Throughout his career, Mr. Stavros served the Village of Wheeling in various roles and capacities in the Public Works Department. As Director, he oversaw multiple divisions managing parks, infrastructure, and flood and snow operations, all of which are vital to the well-being and safety of the community. A number of his successful projects were recognized by the American Public Works Association including his work on the Cornell Avenue Dam Rehabilitation.

Mr. Stavros leaves a lasting legacy through his integrity, leadership, and commitment to the improvement and maintenance of the Wheeling community. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to express my gratitude to Mr. Anthony Stavros for his forty-five years of exemplary service.

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL MIXED  
RELAY TEAM

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christy Lee, Yaobin Chen, Mia Craven for earning the Top Mixed Relay Award during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

These Clements High School athletes were among almost 250 competitors from Texas competing in this race. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. This win speaks to the team's dedication to the sport and immense athletic ability. We wish the team luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Christy, Yaobin, and Mia for winning the Top Mixed Relay award in this year's Triathlon Championships.

97TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC DAY

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Azerbaijanis around the world, in celebration of Republic Day on May 28. Republic Day commemorates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the first Muslim democratic secular republic in the region. Although only lasting two years, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan achieved considerable success in state-building and creating educational foundations for future generations. The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted suffrage to women shortly after its creation, ahead of most Western democracies.

Despite all of its successes, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was not in a position to weather the occupational forces of the then newly formed Soviet Russia. Consequently, Azerbaijan temporarily lost its independence in 1920 and later was brought into the U.S.S.R. In 1990, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the U.S.S.R., ending 70 years of Soviet rule. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the independence was approved by the adoption of a Constitutional Act.

Since its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an ally and is among the first nations who offered unconditional support to the United States in the global War on Terrorism, providing its airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijan continues to be a strategic partner with the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their valuable partnership and congratulate Azerbaijanis around the world on the 97th anniversary of Republic Day.

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL ALL-  
MALE TRIATHLON RELAY TEAM

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aaron Pan, Brian Yuen, and Abraham Mckarkin, for earning Top All-Male Relay during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

The Clements High School sophomores were among almost 250 competitors from around Texas competing in this race. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. Their win recognizes extreme athletic ability as well as a strong dedication to the sport. We wish each of these young men luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Aaron, Brian, and Abraham for earning the Top All-Male Relay team at this year's Triathlon Championships.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 264, 265, 266, and 267. If present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call 264, "yea" on roll call 265, "yea" on roll call 266, and "no" on roll call 267.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2015 I was absent for recorded votes #264 through 267 due to a weather-related flight delay.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call #264 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #265 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #266 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #267 I would have voted no.

CINCO RANCH ALL-FEMALE  
TRIATHLON RELAY TEAM**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katie Rinderknecht, Ava Rinderknecht and Sydney Rinderknecht, for winning the Top All-Female Relay during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

Ava and Sydney are sophomores at Cinco Ranch High School, and Katie is a freshman. These young women were among almost 250 competitors at the Triathlon Championships. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. Their accomplishment recognizes extreme athletic ability, as well as a strong dedication to the sport. We wish each of these young women luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Katie, Ava, and Sydney for winning Top All-Female Relay team at this year's Triathlon Championships.

IN HONOR OF HARLEM  
HELLFIGHTER SERGEANT HENRY  
JOHNSON RECEIVING A POST-  
HUMOUS MEDAL OF HONOR

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Henry Johnson. Sergeant Henry Johnson epitomizes what it means to be a great American hero and patriot. I thank President Barack Obama for posthumously awarding the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Johnson, a New York native and distinguished member of the 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the 'Harlem Hellfighters.' With our nation's highest honor of valor bestowed upon Sgt. Johnson, his legacy will be enduring and highlighted in the annals of history.

As a black soldier living in the first decades of the 20th Century, Sgt. Johnson never saw the accolades he so rightly deserved during his lifetime. He enlisted in the military soon after Congress declared war on Germany in June 1917, and was assigned to Company C, 15th New York (Colored) Infantry Regiment—an all-black National Guard unit, which would later become the 369th Infantry Regiment of the 93rd Division, American Expeditionary Forces. The following year, the 369th deployed to France where Sgt. Johnson fought off advancing German soldiers who were trying to raid his French and American camp. Even as he was wounded 21 times, Sgt. Johnson risked his own life to save a fellow soldier from being captured or killed. Indeed, Sgt. Johnson valiantly held back the enemy force until they retreated.

In addition to earning respect from his fellow American and French soldiers, Sgt. Johnson's remarkable deed of courage inspired other black soldiers like me to salute the flag and serve our country with pride and distinction. As a Korean War Veteran, I learned from Sgt. Johnson and other heroes of the 369th Infantry Regiment who fought in World War I and World War II the true meaning of service and sacrifice for the nation.

Since its inception, the 'Harlem Hellfighters' of the 369th Infantry Regiment have participated in every conflict since World War I, including the battles we fight today. I am honored to belong to the 369th Harlem Hellfighter Veterans' Association based in Harlem of my congressional district. Along with my dear friend Percy Ellis Sutton, Major General Nathaniel James, the first African American Commander of the New York State Guard, Korean War Veteran Donald H. Eaton, Civil Rights Attorney Paul Zuber and William K. Defosset, who served in the U.S. State Department and the New York Police Department were all active members who helped pass my bill in Congress to secure the Federal Charter for the Association. In 2003 when Sgt. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, we said we would not stop fighting until Sgt. Johnson was awarded the Medal of Honor. The late Filmmaker William Miles who was also a member and documented the history of the Harlem Hellfighters

in the film, "Men of Bronze" played a huge role in raising the awareness of Sgt. Johnson's heroism. Today is a victorious day for all of us, the people of Harlem, African Americans, our comrades in arms, friends in Congress and the community, as it marks a significant milestone in American history. We are exceedingly proud to see that Sgt. Henry Johnson has finally received the proper recognition he has duly earned.

RECOGNIZING JUDSON HIGH  
SCHOOL WOMEN'S TRACK AND  
FIELD TEAM

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Judson High School women's track and field team for their second state championship win under the leadership of Coach Renee Gerbich.

On Saturday, May 16th, the Judson Rockets earned their spot as champions when Darionne Gibson, Dominique Allen, Zantori Dickerson, and Mariah Kuykendall won the gold medal in the final event of the UIL 6A state championship in Austin, the 1,600-meter relay. In the last eleven seasons, the team has won nine regional titles and two state championships. Last year, the Judson Rockets became the first women's track and field team in the Greater San Antonio area to win a state title in the UIL's 6A classification.

As well as their triumph in the final event, the team broke the area record for the 200 with senior Kiana Horton's gold medal-winning performance. Kiana Horton, Talajah Murrell, Konstance James, and Kiara Pickens broke the city and school records for the 400-meter relay, winning the silver medal. They were joined at the championship by junior Maia Campbell, who competed in shot put.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for Judson High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Judson Rockets for their record-setting victory.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 1, 2015, I was unavoidably detained traveling from Wisconsin due to a weather related flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

- 1.) On roll call no. 264 (Dingell Amendment to H.R. 1335)—No
- 2.) On roll call no. 265 (Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 1335)—No
- 3.) On roll call no. 266 (Democrat motion to recommit to H.R. 1335)—No
- 4.) On roll call no. 267 (Passage of H.R. 1335)—Aye